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## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday – January 23, 2013 11:00 A.M.

### I. Call To Order/ Roll Call

Chairman Harris opened the meeting at 11:17 A.M.

Members present: Richard Harris, Paul Von Berg, Yvonne de la Peña, Barbara Blake, Scott Gordon, and Chief Diane Ravnik

A quorum was met.

Members absent: Van Ton-Quinlivan and Les DenHerder

Review/Approval of the minutes of October 24, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Commissioner Von Berg and seconded by Chief Ravnik. All approved. The motion was carried.

### II. Continue Discussion on Freeway Projects – Victor Salazar, California Department of Transportation, Division of Construction Office of Risk Management

Mr. Salazar gave a brief overview of his path and journey to Caltrans. He is currently tasked in overseeing construction projects with safety and highway operations in a construction zone and risk management with regards to workers' compensation and general liability.

He continued his report with discussing a series of fatalities in the not too distant past. As a result of these fatalities the department formed a committee to bring together a collaboration of ideas. He shared the ideas with the attendees.

- Implementing DUI enforcement in advance of the work zone
- Implement a uniform reduced speed limit on all construction projects similar to school zones.
  - Development of guidance and policy to made available to all engineers across the state
- Develop and use positive barriers
- Lengthen the work window – work in daylight when possible
- Educate workers to change their behavior and keep themselves safe
  - CHP offered to provide their freeway service patrol training and tailor the program for construction workers. Contractors are to contact their local CHP office.
- Use rumble strips in advance of work zones
- Use more complete (or full) closures
- Use more COZEEL (Construction Officers Zone Enhance Enforcement Program)

- CHP officers within the construction zone
  - Using officers on navigable waters – surrounding bridge areas
- Use buffer lanes for certain operations
- Develop a “Hit a Worker Go to Jail” law with a large fine
  - Research is still being conducted
- Change law so that highway workers are not pedestrians and the highway is seen as their work site
  - Caltrans is in the process of changing the law in the vehicle code

Comments/Discussions:

Commissioner Richard Harris commented on the Work Zone Safety group pursuing the ideas, either through the strategic highway safety plan or internally. He stated there are federal monies involved. Mr. Salazar further commented on the question of “what can be done now”, internally. Some changes require input from outside sources.

Contact Chairman Harris for any Safety or Health issues for future agendas at: [Richard.grant.harris@gmail.com](mailto:Richard.grant.harris@gmail.com). Mr. Harris will do research on Rope Access Safety.

The next meeting will held July 2013.

- III. Adjournment  
The meeting adjourned at 12:14 P.M.